

Dear FCC,

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force its stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a MAJOR problem. I hope you revoke Sinclair's license. My local Sinclair station is WTTO in Birmingham, Alabama.

Such unbalanced "news" and obvious attempts to control voter thinking are outrageous and are a clear violation of accepted journalistic practices. Shame on Sinclair! Furthermore, it is also clear that the anti-Kerry program is politically motivated and is full of questionable information. Again, SHAME on Sinclair -- and SHAME ON THE FCC for not cracking down on it.

Certainly Sinclair is trying to push its own agenda without regard to balance or to truth. The attempt to do so right before the election is dangerous to democracy. Does Sinclair plan to air Michael Moore's documentary about Bush immediately after? If so, then balance has been achieved. If not, then Sinclair should be put out of business as unfair and unethical. Moore's documentary has also been questioned as to its information and slant, but notice that everyone who saw it had to pay to see it. Sinclair should be held to the same standard. It should put its slanted documentary in the movie houses, not foist it upon viewers who may not have seen the counterbalancing documentary from Moore.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and it is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Clearly this is what is going on here.

Sinclair's actions show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Julie Williams, PhD  
Professor of Journalism  
Birmingham, AL